

24 January 2021



BANGALOW/BYRON BAY UCA

Why a Day of Mourning?



The observance of a Day of Mourning was endorsed by the 15th Assembly of the UCA in 2018 arising from a request of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC). In the spirit of our Walking Together as First and Second Peoples, and as an expression of the Uniting Church's commitment to justice and truth-telling, the UCA has declared the Sunday before Australia Day as a Day of Mourning. We have acknowledged this in our churches since this time during our gathered worship and will do so on Sunday 24th January this year.

In our gathered worship we will remember that our history is an important part of our Covenant relationship and our journey toward justice, healing and a new relationship as First and Second Peoples. We will be reminded of the dispossession and violence against First Peoples, and

lament that as a Church and as Second Peoples we were and remain complicit.

"As the Uniting Church we affirm that ours is "a destiny together" acknowledging the wrongs of the past and the present and committing ourselves to take action to bring about a more just Australia. As the Uniting Church we hear Jesus calling us into the light of a new shared community, based on justice, love and mutual respect for one another. We pray that the whole nation may fully acknowledge our history and take a significant step towards healing for our nation."

- Dr Deidre Palmer (UCA President) & Pastor Mark Kickett (UAICC Interim Chair).

Here in the Byron Shire (or Cavanbah as Byron Bay is known in the Bundjalung language) we acknowledge the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung Nation and thank God for the way they have cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial. The local Bundjalung people are actively involved in our community and have a rich and beautiful culture that they share openly and with a great sense of welcome and inclusion.

May you continue to reflect on the experience of the First Peoples of Australia and discover ways to connect with their people and culture and in walking together into the future, paying attention to justice and reconciliation.

Grace and peace, Rev Phil

We acknowledge the Arakwal people of the Bundjalung nation, the original custodians of this place. We acknowledge their deep spiritual connection to these lands and waterways upon which we live and gather, and honour their elders past, present and emerging.

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Please contact us to find out more about any of our programs and activities.

Every Week...

Op Shop @ Byron Bay: 9am-12pm, Thursday, Sat 9am-12pm
Men's Cooking: 10am Fridays
Currently suspended due to Coronavirus

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop: Tuesdays & Fridays 9am-1pm

Sewing @ Byron Bay: 9am-3pm and 6pm-9pm, Mondays

Upcoming events...

Bangalow Weir BBQ Picnic: Sunday 31st January 2021 we will have a BBQ Picnic as our gathering at the Bangalow Weir (near Deacon St). This has become an annual event and we hope to see you there.

Congregational Meeting: Sunday 7th February following the 5pm gathered worship service at Bangalow (to discuss our gathered worship)

Lectionary Readings

24 January	John 3:1-5,10	Psalm 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
31 January	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
7 February	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
14 February	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalm 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9

Newsletter Items If you have an event or item for the newsletter, please email Phil the full details by the Tuesday before release, so that we can keep people informed and up to date.

Vision Task Group

In recent times we have been encouraged by our Synod to develop plans for our ministry and mission into the future. It feels like now is the season to spend focused time in prayer, dreaming and visioning for the future of our congregation. At our last Church Council meeting, the Council approved the creation of a Vision Task Group who will meet regularly to discuss possibilities and work towards creating a Mission Plan for the future. Initially this group would meet once a month to discuss ideas, review our current Mission Plan and then develop a plan for the future. If you would like to be part of this group that will begin meeting in February 2021, please contact Rev Phil.

Growing Young

The Pulse Team of our Synod has suggested a resource for churches to consider in terms of their engagement with younger people and growth. This revolves around a book called **'Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies To Help Young People Discover And Love Your Church.'** Our Church Council has decided to engage in this process and this would take the form of working with a small group within our congregation who would read this book (like a book club/small group) and then meet fortnightly to discuss the content, eventually developing an approach for our own church. This would be done in partnership with Pastor Steve 'Molk' Molkentin and the Pulse Team. We have purchased 10 copies of the book and would like to form a group to begin meeting in February 2021. If you would like to be part of this group then please contact Rev Phil. For more details on Growing Young try this link:



<https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/resources/growing-young/>

Picnic At Bangalow Weir - Sunday 31st January

On Sunday 31st January we are gathering for a picnic in Bangalow as our gathering for that day. In previous years we have shared salads and a BBQ but this year due to COVID we will have a slightly different approach. We are asking each family or individual to bring their own picnic basket/meal and to not share food or drinks with one another. This will allow our church leadership to satisfy COVID Safe requirements for such an event and for us all to safely enjoy a social gathering like this, despite the current COVID situation.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 24 January: Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

Week of 31 January: North Africa: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia

Prayer Points:

- For our country Australia as we recognise Australia Day and as we continue to experience the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We pray for our national, state and local leaders as they make vital decisions in this time and for our future.
- For the local Arakwal people of the Bundjalung Nation. May we continue to find ways to walk together into the future as we seek reconciliation, justice and peace. Be with their elders and leaders as they pass on their language, culture and traditions.
- The ministries of our church and those who lead them, as we begin a new year of engaging and serving our local community.
- That our Vision Task Group will be formed and develop some God-inspired ideas for the future ministry and growth of our congregation.

Gathered Worship

Sunday 24th January	5pm (Bangalow) Day of Mourning service	Rev Phil
Sunday 31st January	5pm (Bangalow Weir)	Picnic at the Weir (near Deacon St)
Sunday 7th February	5pm (Bangalow)	Communion - Rev Phil
Sunday 7th February	Congregational Meeting	Following the 5pm service at Bangalow (to discuss our gathered worship)
Sunday 14th February	5pm (Bangalow)	Rev Phil

The Church Council has decided to continue our combined gatherings at 5pm at Bangalow into February and will make some concrete decisions in the next few weeks about our next steps.

Banking Details:

Giving your offering or tithe by Direct Debit or EFTPOS is a helpful way of engaging in this important act of worship.

If you would like to do this the banking details for our church are:

BSB:634-634

Account Number: 100 018 564

Speak to our Treasurer George Graham for more details on offering, gifts or bequests.

Bangalow Byron Bay Uniting Church: 6685 1708

<https://byronshireunitingchurches.uca.org.au>

 <https://www.facebook.com/BangalowByronBayUnitingChurch>

Minister: Rev. Phil Dokmanovic

Phil: 0425 291 955 // phild@nswact.uca.org.au

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692

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